

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

1st June 2023

Committee Members in attendance:	Mrs D Crook(C), Mrs J Ayers, Mrs S Bell, A Bennison, P Hickmott, Ms D King and G Miners
Non Committee Members in attendance:	
Committee Members Absent with apologies:	D Morgan (VC), W Mallard
Committee Members Absent without apologies:	Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Council Staff Present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> see above
2.	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> None
3.	<u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2023</u> The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 th April 2023 were agreed as a true record.
4.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> None present
5.	<u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u> The Committee received details of the next litter pick in the Recreation Ground on Saturday 3 June 2023 at 2pm. To be co-ordinated by Cllr Mrs D King. Meet at Recreation Avenue Entrance.
6.	<u>To consider a proposal to install a sign at Snodland Cemetery indicating the location of Commonwealth War Graves.</u> The Committee considered a request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to install a sign on the entrance gates wall to indicate that there are 17 war graves situated in the Cemetery. It was suggested that the location of the war graves in the cemetery should be indicated on the notice board at the entrance to the cemetery. 1045 RESOLVED to allow the installation of the sign on the Cemetery entrance gate wall to indicate that there are 17 Commonwealth war graves situated in the Cemetery.
7.	<u>To receive an update relating to Paddlesworth Road Car Park.</u> The CEO advised the Committee that Soiltec had completed the soakaway soil tests at Potyns having excavated two trial pits, one to the North (SA1) and one to the South (SA2) of the playing fields. Following the results of the testing the CEO met with the Architect and the Structural Engineers, who advised that soakaways could be introduced to the Northern section of the playing fields to connect the drainage required for the Car Park. Costs for the design elements relating to this will be submitted to Policy and Finance on 13 June 2023.

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

1st June 2023

8.	<p><u>To consider working with a local charity to introduce a coffee morning for the elderly residents of Snodland</u></p> <p>The council have been approached by the founder of a charity called Wishing Hearts, an organisation supporting the elderly community by granting wishes, organising community events and carrying out companionship visits. They are currently looking for the council to fund 50% of a project to run a regular coffee morning event for the elderly.</p> <p>The Committee questioned the need for the service in Snodland. There is already a well established Open door Coffee stop 10-12 on the first and third Monday of the month and a dementia group on the second and fourth Monday of the month.</p> <p>The council felt that this should be looked into in more detail and asked that the charity provide a brief on what they are suggesting, how they think it will add value to what we already have and what the costs are that are associated with this new project, what 50% of the costs would be. How are they going to attract customers , how long would the project last for and would the council be expected to maintain costs once it up and running.</p>
9.	<p><u>To consider and if agreed accept quotations for new gates at Birling Lands Allotments. Costs to be covered from Earmarked Reserves Repairs and Renewals.</u></p> <p>The CEO presented the quotes for new gates at Birling Lands. She advised that she had approached three companies, however one had declined to quote as they did not specialise in metal gates and felt that they would be uncompetitive.</p> <p>Both quotes were to replace the existing gate which needs renewing and to instal a second gate halfway down the fence between Catts Alley and Saltings Road.</p> <p>Quote 1 £2094.84 plus VAT Quote 2 £3215.00 plus VAT</p> <p>1046 RESOLVED to accept quote 1 at £2094.84 plus VAT to replace the existing gate and install a new gate halfway down the fence between Catts Alley and Salting Road for the Allotments. Costs to be covered from Earmarked Reserves Repairs and Renewals.</p>
10.	<p><u>To consider and if agreed accept quotations for new gates at Edgeler Court Costs to be covered from Earmarked Reserves Repairs and Renewals.</u></p> <p>The CEO presented quotes for new gates at Edgeler Court. Three quotes had been obtained to replace the existing wooden gates the enter into the field. The existing gates are rotten and no longer open and have to be lifted into place.</p> <p>Quote 1 £1686.00 plus VAT Quote 2 £1284.00 plus VAT Quote 3 £950.00 plus VAT</p> <p>1047 RESOLVED to accept quote 3 to replace the gates leading into the field in Edgeler Court. Costs to be covered from Earmarked Reserves Repairs and Renewals.</p>

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

1st June 2023

<p>11.</p> <p>1048</p>	<p><u>To consider and if agreed accept quotation for removal of trees at Old Potyns to facilitate the container for the pump track.</u></p> <p>Three quotes have been received to remove 3 trees to ground level to facilitate the container at Potyns for the pump track. A number of trees have been planted in New Potyns to compensate for the loss of these trees.</p> <p>Quote 1 - £675.00 Quote 2 - £650.00 Quote 3 - £750.00</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept quote 2 to remove the trees at old Potyns to facilitate the container for the pump track.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>To receive a letter from Snodland CEP School Council Members</u></p> <p>The committee have received a letter from Snodland CEP School Council members relating to a survey that they had completed to gather views on what they perceive as issues in the local area. The two areas of concern are the play area in the recreation ground and animal faeces.</p> <p>The Committee had at a previous meeting agreed to set up a working party to look at Nevill Park and felt that this working group should incorporate existing play equipment in open spaces with a view to renewal. This will be discussed further under Agenda Item 15.</p> <p>The school had put forward an idea to install Poo bag dispensers around the area. The Committee considered the dispensers however felt that they would not be feasible for the following reasons –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problem relates more to people not picking the faeces up; • Some bag the faeces but do not then put it in a bin they just throw the bag on the floor; • Unfortunately there will be a minority of people that will pull the bags out and let them fly around and this in turn causes a litter problem and concerns for wildlife; • Responsible dog owners go out armed with the equipment to clear up after the dogs. The irresponsible ones do not carry equipment and will not be prompted by bin holders. <p>TMBC used to carry out a “bag and flag” project identifying problem hot spots for dog faeces, however this has stopped. The CEO will contact TMBC to see if this can be re-introduced to highlight the problem and raise awareness.</p> <p>Members of the Committee raised the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the school do anything to help support nature in the community. • The School have said they will be concentrating on the issue of litter, but have not made it clear how they will be going about this. The school could volunteer to do litter picking in the local parks and this is something that we could help liaise with them on. • Kent wildlife trust provide education events for the school, if they are interesting in learning about nature and how rubbish impacts the area.

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

1st June 2023

	<p>It may be possible for the council or Snodland Partnership to sponsor the school to carry out that sort of activity on the basis that they then litter pick and fund raise by doing a sponsored litter pick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ayers advised that she would be prepared to take on the project and was happy to have her email address passed onto the school. • The council reiterated they also felt very strongly about making Snodland a better place, however there is again a small minority of people who persistently throw their litter and have no regard for the environment. <p>As well as organised Snodland Council litter picks, Several Councillors carry out individual litter picks and have found that a lot of the rubbish is from McDonalds and Costa Coffee, and although these businesses carry out litter picks on their immediate site, they do not venture further. Cllr Ayers and Cllr Hickmott will approach Costa and McDonalds to ask them to contribute to replacing our litter picking equipment and additional signage.</p> <p>Some areas have been suggested for further litter bins however these are on country roads, which are not within the council remit and would not be considered by KCC due to the locations. It was also pointed out that regardless of the number of bins there are still the irresponsible minority that do not use the bins.</p>
13.	<p><u>To Receive a report relating to Snodland Events</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported on the events meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that numbers for floats and walking groups were still low.</p> <p>A Councillor asked if the Schools and Pre-schools had given reasons for not participating. The main reason are the additional insurance costs, health and safety and the lack of volunteers. It was suggested that the Council write to the schools after this years carnival and ask them what barriers are preventing them from participating in the carnival and this may then lead to the council being able to look into ways they can help.</p> <p>It was suggested that the carnival event needs to evolve and needs to consider the future of the carnival procession.</p> <p>The Committee would take the opportunity at the carnival to ask for ideas on what residents would like to see in their parks and public open spaces. This would be carried out using the blank white board and post it notes.</p>
14.	<p><u>To consider replacement notice board at Christ Church, High Street and installation of a new double notice board at Potyns Sportsground</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the notice board at the crossroads is broken and needs replacing, along with one outside Christ Church. A third new notice board has been requested for Potyns Sportsground. As there is already a large notice board at the entrance to the car park in the High Street it was felt that it was not necessary to have another in such a close proximity at the crossroads and this should be taken down and not replaced.</p>

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

1st June 2023

<p>1049</p> <p>1050</p> <p>1051</p>	<p>The information “welcome to Potyns” sign would also be relocated and backed onto the new notice board. The location of the notice board at Potyns was considered and it was felt that it would be safer to have the notice board accessible from the field side so people would read them from the grassed area as opposed to standing in the car park.</p> <p>Quotes have been sourced from two suppliers for each of the areas – Church Quote 1 - £463.00 Quote 2 £551.04 Potyns Quote 1 - £1108.45 Quote 2 - £1091.00</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept Quote 1 for the Church Notice board replacement £463.00</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept Quote 2 for Potyns new Notice board £1091.00</p> <p>RESOLVED not to replace the notice board in the High Street</p> <p>Comments were made regarding the resiting of the mural located in the High Street next to the notice board. The CEO will write to the agent to ask for the mural to be returned to the Council.</p>
15.	<p><u>To form a working party to consider the improvements at Nevill Park</u></p> <p>The committee formed a working party for Nevill Park</p> <p>The Working party will be formed of Cllr Mrs S Bell, Mrs D Crook, Mrs D King and G Miners</p> <p>The CEO will check the meeting calander and send out a date to the relevant Councillors.</p>
16.	<p><u>To discuss ways to prevent illegal access to STC open spaces</u></p> <p>Following the recent illegal access gained to public open spaces, the committee discussed ways to tighten security of the sites.</p> <p>The security on all the gates need to be accessed with new security padlocks with box covers.</p>
17.	<p><u>To consider a request from Devonshire Rooms Pre-school relating to Shading for the front of the building.</u></p> <p>The committee received a request from Devonshire Rooms Pre-school to look at different options to provide shading at the front of the building when the children access the front garden.</p> <p>The different options are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To add hooks to the masonry work of the building to allow the use of sails to be hung to provide shady areas • To instal a wind out awning to the building so it retracts when not in use • To install 6 beams not connected to the building and add sails. <p>The committee considered each option and commented as follows –</p> <p>Sails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If hooks are attached to the building, where would they attach the other side of the sails.

